FD-263 (Rev. 6-1-59)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEW HAVEN	DALLAS	12/14/63	12/13/63

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
LEE HARVEY OSWALD	SA LEONARD F. JOHNSON	hmg

CHARACTER OF CASE

IS - R

-RUC-

ADMINISTRATIVE

Investigation reflected in this report was based upon a telephone call received on 12/12/63 from JAMES SPENCER, Wallingford, Conn. who advised that while employed as a car salesman at New Orleans Louisiana in 1961, he had come in contact with one LEE OSWALD of Magazine St. SPENCER wanted to be advised of the New Orleans address of the man who was charged with the assassination of President KENNEDY, to confirm if possible that the OSWALD he had come in contact with was the same person. He indicated that if it was the same person he could possibly sell a story to some reporter. He was not furnished with any information.

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COPIES MADE:

10 - Bureau (105-82555)(RM)

3 - Dallas (100-10461)(RM)

1 - New Haven (100-18158)

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105-82555-804

REC-34

4 DEC 24 1963

NOTATIONS

SOVIET SECTION ST-104

DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT

AGENCY	Presidential Commission			
REQUEST REC'D	2 copies			
DATE FWD.	1/8/64	61		
HOW FWD.	Finger			
BY	Relfith			

Section 40

FD-204 (Rev. 8-8-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:	SA LEONARD F. JOHNSON	Office:	NEW HAVEN
Date:	December 14, 1963		
Field Office File No.:	100-18158	Bureau File No.:	105-82555
Title:	LEE HARVEY OSWALD		

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis:

JAMES A. SPENCER, Wallingford, Conn. unemployed car salesman, formerly employed February to August, 1961 at Dumas and Milnes Chevrolet Co., New Orleans, Louisiana, advised individual who identified self as LEE OSWALD with address Magazine St. attempted to purchase a car through him at above concern on unrecalled date. He states this OSWALD impressed him as a "character" and had spoken favorably of Cuba and appeared to have been very enthusiastic about CASTRO. He could not recall this individual as having mentioned having any connection with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee or with any other group or organization.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

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FD-302 (Rev. 3-11-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 14, 1963

JAMES A. SPENCER, 68 South Elm Street, Wallingford, Connecticut, an automobile salesman by occupation, presently unemployed, advised of the following information:

SPENCER is married, has five children, and resides with his wife, JOAN P. SPENCER, and his children at the above Connecticut address. From early in February, 1961 to the end of August, 1961, he resided at the Parkchester Apartments on Duplessis Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. His family had resided with him at that address, however, his wife and children came to Wallingford, Connecticut in July of 1961 and he followed them to Connecticut in September, 1961.

During the same period, February to August, 1961, SPENCER was employed as an automobile salesman by the Dumas and Milnes Chevrolet Company, 4049 South Carrolton Street, at the corner of Tulane Avenue in New Orleans.

Shortly after the assassination of President KENNEDY, he observed a photograph of LEE HARVEY OSWALD on television. He immediately felt that he had seen OSWALD somewhere but, at the time, he could not recall the place or the circumstances, and the name LEE HARVEY OSWALD did not mean anything to him at the time.

A few days ago, while looking through his billfold, he found a business card, which he had used while employed as salesman by the Dumas and Milnes Company in New Orleans. On the back of the card was a notation in his (SPENCER's) handwriting, "LEE OSWALD, Magazine St". SPENCER stated that finding this card had refreshed his recollection and he now recalls that, while he was employed at the Dumas and Milnes Company in New Orleans, an individual came to the car lot and seemed to be quite interested in a particular car. He does not recall the particular car this individual was interested in, but believes it was similar to his own car, which is a 1958 Chevrolet. He does not recall when it was that this individual came to the car lot but stated the same individual returned a second time. He dealt with this individual on both occasions but he does not know

On 12/13/63 at Wallingford, Connecticut File # NH 100-18158

by SA LEONARD F. JOHNSON/hmg Date dictated 12/14/63

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whether this individual had any contact with anyone else connected with the Dumas and Milnes Company.

SPENCER stated that, as he recalled, there was some question of the ability of that individual to make a down payment and, on the occasion of the second visit, both went across the street for coffee at a Wahlgren Drug Store. At some time during the conversation he managed to get the name and address of the individual and wrote his name and address on the back of one of his business cards. He stated that, at the time, this individual made quite an impression on him as he considered the man to be quite a "character". He stated that, although he cannot recall any specific statements this man made, the man spoke at length about Cuba and appeared to be very enthusiastic about CASTRO. SPENCER stated that, at that time, there was quite a large group of persons in New Orleans which SPENCER said was interested in "Fair Play for Castro". He could not recall whether or not this man had said he was connected in any way with any such group. He stated there had been some individuals passing out handbills favorable to Cuba at various times on the very corner on which the Dumas and Milnes Company is located. He stated, however, that he never saw the man he knew as OSWALD engaging in any such activity. He further stated that he could not recall that this man had ever mentioned having any connection with the Fair Play for Cuba Committee or with any other group or organization.

SPENCER stated that he could not recall having actually sold an automobile to this man and he does not know whether this man ever purchased an automobile from the Dumas and Milnes Company.

SPENCER stated that this man had made such an impression on him as being an "odd ball" that he mentioned him to his wife at the time. He noted that it was seldom that he ever mentioned anything about his customers to his wife.

SPENCER stated that he could not recall the physical description of the man he knew as OSWALD and he had no further information concerning the man, other than that he felt the man was a "very self sustaining individual" because he insisted on paying for his own cup of coffee.

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NH 100-18158

SPENCER advised thathe had recently discussed this matter with a friend of his who sometimes writes articles for a newspaper and it was suggested that if he could determine that the man he knew as OSWALD was identical with the OSWALD who had been charged with the assassination of President KENNEDY, he might be able to get an article syndicated as a human interest story. He stated that for this reason, although there is not much doubt in his mind that they were one and the same person, he had telephoned the FBI Office at New Haven, Connecticut on the night of December 12, 1963 seeking to learn if the New Orleans address of the man charged with the assassination of the President was the same as the address of the LEE OSWALD with whom he had come in contact.

SPENCER stated he did not think the information he had would be of any significance to the Government for if he had, he stated he would have immediately called it to the attention of the FBI.

FD-302 (Rev. 10-10-40)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 14, 1963

Mrs. JOAN P. SPENCER, wife of JAMES A. SPENCER, 68 South Elm Street, Wallingford, Connecticut, advised of the following information:

She resided with her husband at New Orleans, Louisiana from February to June, 1961. She advised that her husband, who was employed as a car salesman while in New Orleans, had frequently spoken to her of different customers. She recalled that he had spoken to her of one customer who seemed to have particularly impressed her husband as being some sort of a character". She could not recall, however, the name of this particular individual nor could she recall anything her husband had said about that individual.

On 12/13/63 at Wallingford, Connecticut File # NH 100-18158

by SA LEONARD F. JOHNSON/hmg Date dictated 12/14/63

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